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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/932,263	08/17/2001	Richard A. Vaughan	EXIN 117647	3115
26389	7590	08/22/2005	EXAMINER	
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1420 FIFTH AVENUE			ART UNIT	
SUITE 2800			PAPER NUMBER	
SEATTLE, WA 98101-2347			3639	

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/932,263	VAUGHAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Fadey S. Jabr	3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 25,26,62,63 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/15/2003</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 25, 26, 62 63 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims **1-24 and 50-61** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The basis of this rejection is set forth in a two-prong test of:

- (1) whether the invention is within the technological arts; and
- (2) whether the invention produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result.

For a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must be within the technological arts. Mere ideas in the abstract (i.e., abstract idea, law of nature, natural phenomena) that do not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts fail to promote the "progress of science and the useful arts" (i.e., the physical sciences as opposed to social sciences, for example) and therefore are found to be non-statutory subject matter. A claim limited to a machine or manufacture which has practical application in the technological arts is statutory. In

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most cases, a claim to a specific machine or manufacture will have practical application in the technological arts. See MPEP 2106, 2100-14 (quoting *In re Alappat*, 33 F.3d at 1544, 31 USPQ2d at 1557). Additionally, for subject matter to be statutory, the claimed process must be limited to a practical application of the abstract idea or mathematical algorithm in the technological arts. See *In re Alappat* 33 F.3d at 1543, 31 USPQ2d at 1556-57 (quoting *Diamond V. Diehr*, 450 U.S. at 192, 209 USPQ at 10). For a process claim to pass muster, the recited process must somehow apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts. See *In re Musgrave*, 431 F.2d 882, 167 USPQ 280 (CCPA 1970).

In the present case, **1-24 and 50-61** only recite an abstract idea. The recited steps of merely obtaining a user request for a reservation and processing that request does not apply, involve, use, or advance the technological arts since all of the recited steps can be performed in the mind of the user or by use of a pencil and paper. These steps only constitute an idea of how to process a user request for a reservation.

Additionally, for a claimed invention to be statutory, the claimed invention must produce a useful, concrete, and tangible result. An invention, which is eligible or patenting under 35 U.S.C. 101, is in the “useful arts” when it is a machine, manufacture, process or composition of matter, which produces a concrete, tangible, and useful result. The fundamental test for patent eligibility is thus to determine whether the claimed invention produces a “use, concrete and tangible result”. See *AT&T v. Excel Communications Inc.*, 172 F.3d at 1358, 50 USPQ2d at 1452 and *State Street Bank & Trust Co. v. Signature Financial Group, Inc.*, 149 F.3d at 1373, 47 USPQ2d at 1601 (Fed. Cir. 1998). The test for practical application as applied by the examiner involves the determination of the following factors”

(a) “Useful” – The Supreme Court in *Diamond v. Diehr* requires that the examiner look at the claimed invention as a whole and compare any asserted utility with the claimed invention to determine whether the asserted utility is accomplished. Applying utility case law the examiner will note that:

- i. the utility need not be expressly recited in the claims, rather it may be inferred.
- ii. if the utility is not asserted in the written description, then it must be well established.

(b) “Tangible” – Applying *In re Warmerdam*, 33 F.3d 1354, 31 USPQ2d 1754 (Fed. Cir. 1994), the examiner will determine whether there is simply a mathematical construct claimed, such as a disembodied data structure and method of making it. If so, the claim involves no more than a manipulation of an abstract idea and therefore, is nonstatutory under 35 U.S.C. 101. In *Warmerdam* the abstract idea of a data structure became capable of producing a useful result when it was fixed in a tangible medium, which enabled its functionality to be realized.

(c) “Concrete” – Another consideration is whether the invention produces a “concrete” result. Usually, this question arises when a result cannot be assured. An appropriate rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 should be accompanied by a lack of enablement rejection, because the invention cannot operate as intended without undue experimentation.

In the present case, the claimed invention generates, processes, and transmits a user request (i.e., repeatable) used in obtaining a reservation for a user (i.e., useful and tangible).

Although the recited process produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result, since the claimed invention, as a whole, is not within the technological arts as explained above, **1-24 and 50-61** are deemed to be directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims **1-7, 11, 12, 24-27, 34-36, 42, 44-50, 62, 63** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schiff et al., Pub. No. US2002/0082877 A1.

As per **Claims 1 and 50**, Schiff et al. discloses a method for processing reservation requests for one or more inventory items, the method comprising:

- obtaining a user request for reservation of at least one inventory item (Para. 10);
- obtaining inventory data corresponding to the one or more inventory items and matching the user request for reservation (Para. 10);
- generating reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records corresponding to the matching inventory data, wherein the reservation transaction records include data associated with one or more reservation requests, wherein one or more reservation items records correspond to the reservation transaction records and identify a set of

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inventory items associated with the specific reservation request, and wherein one or more reservation inventory records correspond to the reservation items records and include data associated with reservation requests for inventory items identified in the inventory reservation items records (Para. 10, lines 11-15);

- processing the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records (Para. 39, lines 7-13); and
- transmitting results of the processing of the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records (Para. 15, lines 6-14).

As per **Claim 2**, Schiff et al. discloses a method wherein the user request for reservation includes a set of criteria for identifying matching inventory items (Para. 12, lines 5-14).

As per **Claim 3**, Schiff et al. discloses a method wherein the set of criteria includes a date or date range for the reservation request (Para. 12; Para 117, lines 5-14).

As per **Claims 4 and 46**, Schiff et al. discloses a method wherein the set of criteria includes the selection of a hotel room or hotel room type (Para. 31, lines 8-14).

As per **Claims 5 and 47**, Schiff et al. discloses a method wherein the set of criteria includes a selection of an airline flight or airline carrier (Para. 31, lines 8-14).

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As per **Claims 6 and 49**, Schiff et al. discloses a method wherein the set of criteria includes a selection of car rental agency or car rental type (Para. 31, lines 8-14).

As per **Claims 7 and 48**, Schiff et al. discloses a method wherein the set of criteria includes the selection of a cruise or cabin type (Para. 31, lines 8-14).

As per **Claim 11**, Schiff et al. discloses a method wherein processing the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records includes calculating a consumer price for the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records (Para. 15, lines 6-14; Para. 16, lines 7-12; Para. 68, lines 7-13).

As per **Claim 12**, Schiff et al. discloses a method wherein processing the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records includes calculating a supplier cost for the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records (Para. 15, lines 6-14; Para. 68, lines 7-13).

As per **Claim 24, 36, and 45**, Schiff et al. discloses a method wherein the inventory items are travel-based goods and services and wherein the reservation request is a travel-based reservation request (Para. 31, lines 8-14).

As per **Claim 25**, Schiff et al. discloses a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in any one of claims (Para. 5, lines 8-11; Para. 55, lines 5-9).

As per **Claim 26**, Schiff et al. discloses a computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to perform the method recited in any one of claims (Para. 55).

As per **Claim 27**, Schiff et al. discloses a system for processing reservation of one or more inventory items, the system comprising:

- at least one client computer operable to generate a request for reservation of at least one inventory item (Para. 42, lines 3-11; Para 16); and
- a travel server for storing inventory data corresponding to the one or more inventory items, the travel server operable to obtain the reservation request from the client computer (Para. 51, lines 8-11; Para. 67, lines 15-22);
- wherein the travel server generates and processes at least one reservation transaction record, one or more reservation items records, and one or more reservation inventory records corresponding to a new reservation request and the inventory data (Para. 15).

As per **Claim 34**, Schiff et al. discloses a system wherein the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records include a price component, and wherein the travel server is operable to calculate a price based on the sum of the price components of the

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reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records

(Para. 16, lines 6-14; Para. 68, lines 7-13).

As per Claim 35, Schiff et al. discloses a system wherein the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records include a cost component, and wherein the travel server is operable to calculate a cost based on the sum of the cost components of the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records

(Para. 16, lines 6-14; Para. 68, lines 7-13).

As per Claim 42, Schiff et al. discloses a computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for processing reservation of one or more inventory items, comprising:

- a reservation transaction component operable to identify one or more reservation requests for inventory items (Para. 10);
 - one or more reservation items components corresponding to the reservation transaction record and operable to identify reservation requests for inventory items (Para. 10);
- and
- one or more reservation inventory components associated with the reservation items component and operable to define a reservation request for an individual inventory item (Para. 10).

As per **Claim 44**, Schiff et al. discloses a computer-readable medium as recited in claim 42 further comprising a reservation traveler component operable to define one or more user preferences associated with the reservation request (Col. 11, lines 10-14).

As per **Claim 62**, Schiff et al. discloses a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in any one of claims (Para. 51, lines 8-11).

As per **Claim 63**, Schiff et al. discloses a computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating environment, the computer system operable to perform the method recited in any one of claims (Para. 55).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims **8-10, and 28** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiff et al., Pub. No. US2002/0082877 A1 in view of Wiser et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,868,403 B1.

As per **Claims 8-10, and 28**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claim 1.

Schiff et al. fails to disclose a method wherein the inventory data corresponding to one or more inventory items is represented by at least a SKU and SKU inventory record, and wherein obtaining inventory data includes obtaining at least a SKU and SKU inventory record matching the reservation request. However, Wiser et al. discloses using a SKU code for tracking inventory of a particular product (Col. 11, lines 6-8; Col. 16, lines 65-67; Col. 17, lines 1-5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. and provide the capability of tracking inventory using a SKU as disclosed by Wiser et al because it would allow the merchant to maintain inventory records of all their goods.

7. Claims **13, 29, and 43** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiff et al., Pub. No. US2002/0082877 A1 in view of Goheen, U.S. Patent No. 6,094,640.

As per **Claim 13 and 29**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claim 1. Schiff et al. fails

to disclose a method wherein processing the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records includes confirming a completion of a financial transaction corresponding to the reservation request. However, Goheen discloses verifying a payment for the reservation (Col. 5, lines 14-20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. and provide for a

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verification of a financial transaction as disclosed by Goheen because any merchant would want to guarantee payment for their services before providing those services.

As per **Claim 43**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claim 42. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a computer-readable medium further comprising a price component associated with the reservation transaction component, the one or more reservation items components, and the one or more reservation inventory components, the price component operable to define a price adjustment associated with each component. However, Goheen discloses a system where changes to a reservation can be altered and payment for the alteration can be done (Col. 5, lines 14-20; Col. 6, lines 11-24). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Schiff et al. and provide a computer-readable medium that encompasses a price component within the reservation request as disclosed by Goheen. Goheen provides motivation by indicating the process would eliminate paper ticketing and speed up the reservation process (Col. 6, lines 16-24).

8. Claims **30-33** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiff et al., Pub. No. US 2002/0082877 A1 in view of Goheen, U.S. Patent No. 6,094,640 as applied to claim 29 above, and further in view of Patel, U.S. Patent No. 5,953,706.

As per **Claim 30**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations in claim 27. Schiff et al. fails to disclose the system further comprising at least one supplier corresponding to the one or more inventory items, wherein the travel server is operable to transmit a notification of the

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processed reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records to the supplier associated with the process reservation request. However, Patel discloses sending the service provider a confirmation of the reservation request (Col. 1, lines 52-57; Col. 3, lines 56-58; Col. 6, lines 47-51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Schiff et al. and provide a notification confirming the results of a reservation request as disclosed by Patel because this would inform the service provider to update their system to include the reserved trip.

As per **Claim 31**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations in claim 27. Schiff et al. fails to disclose the system wherein the notification includes one or more cost codes operable to define a supplier cost authorization code for the processed reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records. However, Patel discloses sending records and pricing information to the service providers regarding the user reservation (Col. 7, lines 66-67; Col. 8, lines 1-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Schiff et al. and provide the service provider with cost information concerning pricing as disclosed by Patel. Patel provides motivation by pointing out the pricing information can be used to generate invoices for the users (Col. 8, lines 10-13).

As per **Claim 32**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations in claim 27. Schiff et al. fails to disclose the system wherein the travel server is further operable to transmit a confirmation of the processed reservation request to the user associated with the process reservation request. However, Patel discloses sending a confirmation of the request to the user

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(Col. 1, lines 27-30; Col. 3, lines 56-58). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Schiff et al. and provide the user a confirmation of their reservation request as disclosed by Patel because any customer would desire evidence of their reservation in case of predicament. Also a customer would want to have information of their itinerary.

As per **Claim 33**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations in claim 27. Schiff et al. fails to disclose the system wherein the travel server includes a communication component operable to obtain a standard formatted notification to a supplier and to generate and transmit a supplier specified formatted notification. However, Patel discloses sending information and confirmation to a supplier (Col. 1, lines 52-57). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Schiff et al. and provide certain information and confirmation to a service provider in a specific form as disclosed Patel because it would make it more convenient for the service provider to decipher the vital reservation information.

9. Claims **14-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiff et al., Pub. No. US2002/0082877 A1 in view of Patel, U.S. Patent No. 5,953,706 and Goheen, U.S. Patent No. 6,094,640:

As per **Claim 14**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claim 1. Schiff et al. discloses wherein processing the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records include:

- placing the inventory data matching the user reservation request on hold

(Para. 42, lines 7-11);

Nonetheless, Schiff et al. fails to explicitly disclose updating the reservation transaction, reservation items and reservation inventory records with the confirmation data; and updating the inventory data to reflect a completed reservation request. However, Patel discloses confirming and updating the status of a reservation (Col. 3, Lines 56-58). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. and provide a confirmation and update of the reservation status as disclosed by Patel because the system would only want to display available reservations to potential customers.

Additionally, although it may have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention, Schiff et al. and Patel, fail to disclose confirming a completion of a financial transaction corresponding to the reservation request. However, Goheen discloses verifying a payment for the reservation (Col. 5, lines 14-20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. and provide for a verification of a financial transaction as disclosed by Goheen because any merchant would want to guarantee payment for their services before providing those services.

As per **Claim 15**, Schiff et al. further discloses a method wherein placing the inventory data matching the user reservation request on hold includes placing the inventory data in a hold table (Para. 42, lines 7-11).

As per **Claim 16**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claims 1, 14, and 15. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a method wherein updating the inventory data includes deleting the inventory data from the hold table. However, Patel discloses a method in which the reserved trip is removed from the database once confirmed (Col. 7, lines 46-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. and provide for the capability to delete already reserved trips as disclosed by Patel because the system would only want to display available reservations to potential customers.

As per **Claim 17**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claims 1, 14, and 15. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a method further comprising deleting the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records and adding the matching inventory data to a corresponding SKU inventory record if the transfer of a monetary amount cannot be confirmed. However, Goheen discloses a method where a reservation will not be reserved if the payment is not authorized (Col. 5, lines 24-26). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. and prohibit a reservation from being completed if the payment is not authorized as disclosed by Goheen because the merchant would only want to provide reservations for paying customers.

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10. Claims **18-23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiff et al., Pub. No. US2002/0082877 A1 in view of Patel, U.S. Patent No. 5,953,706.

As per **Claim 18**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claim 1. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a method wherein transmitting the results of the processing includes transmitting a notification to a supplier corresponding to the process reservation request. However, Patel discloses a method where a reservation confirmation is sent to a service provider (Col. 6, lines 47-51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. and provide a notification confirming the results of a reservation request as disclosed by Patel because this would inform the service provider to update their system to include the reserved trip.

As per **Claim 19**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claims 1 and 18. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a method wherein the notification includes a confirmation number. However, Patel discloses a confirmation number that is relayed to the service provider (Col. 6, lines 47-51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. and provide a confirmation number attached to the notification as disclosed by Patel because this would allow one to be able to refer to a particular reservation through by way of reference number.

As per **Claim 20**, Schiff et al. further discloses wherein the notification includes utilization information (Para. 12; Para. 108; lines 4-7).

As per **Claim 21**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claims 1 and 18. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a method wherein the notification includes a cost code associated with a supplier cost for the inventory item. However, Patel discloses notifying the service provider of the pricing information for the trip (Col. 7, lines 66-67; Col. 8, lines 1-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. and provide a pricing information for the inventory items as disclosed by Patel because it would simplify accounting records for the service providers when updating their systems.

As per **Claim 22**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claims 1 and 18. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a method wherein transmitting the results of the reservation requests includes transmitting a confirmation to a user corresponding to the process reservation request. However, Patel discloses sending the user a confirmation of their request (Col. 1, lines 27-30; Col. 3, lines 56-58). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. and transmit a confirmation notification to the user of the reservation as disclosed by Patel because any customer would desire evidence of their reservation in case of predicament. Also a customer would want to have information of their itinerary.

As per **Claim 23**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claims 1 and 24. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a method further comprising obtaining a supplier confirmation of the transmitted notification prior to transmitting the confirmation to the user. However, Patel

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discloses sending a confirmation to a service provider before notifying the user (Col. 1, lines 52-60). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. and transmit a confirmation to the service provider before transmitting one to the user as disclosed by Patel because that would allow for verification of the trip's availability before confirming with the user.

11. Claims **37-41, 51-53, 55-58, 60, and 61** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiff et al., Pub. No. US2002/0082877 A1 in view of Sehr, U.S. Patent No. 6,926,203 B1.

As per **Claim 37 and 39**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations in claim 27. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a system wherein the travel server is further operable to obtain a reservation cancellation request from the client computer and to process pre-existing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records in accordance with the reservation cancellation request. However, Sehr discloses a system that allows a user to modify their request (Col. 7, lines 1-15; Col. 15, lines 52-61, Col. 24, lines 29-31). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Schiff et al. and provide the user with the capability to cancel their reservation request as disclosed by Sehr because it would be convenient to the user to have flexibility with their reservation.

As per **Claim 38**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations in claim 27. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a system wherein the processing of the pre-existing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records include updating the inventory data corresponding to the cancelled reservation request. However, Sehr discloses a system in which a user can cancel or modify their reservation and then update the reservation database (Col. 24, lines 29-31; Col. 24, lines 47-58). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Schiff et al. and provide the capability to update the inventory data regarding the reservation cancellation or modification as disclosed by Sehr because the service provider would want to inform other users of the availability of once unavailable reservations.

As per **Claim 40 and 41**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations in claim 27. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a system wherein the travel server is further operable to generate additional reservation items records in accordance with the reservation modification request. However, Sehr discloses a system in which the modified information is forwarded and confirmed (Col. 15, lines 52-61). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the system of Schiff et al. and provide further records of any additional modifications as disclosed by Sehr because the service provider would want to maintain proper record keeping in order to assure the user receives the services requested.

As per **Claim 51**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claim 50. Schiff et al. fails to disclose the method wherein the reservation action request is a reservation cancellation

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request, and wherein processing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records according to the reservation action request includes:

- placing inventory item information corresponding to the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records on hold (Para. 42, lines 7-11);

Nonetheless, Schiff et al. fails to explicitly disclose:

- updating the reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records;
- confirming the completion of a financial transaction corresponding to the cancellation request; and
- if the financial transaction is confirmed, updating an inventory item store with the inventory item information on hold.

However, Sehr discloses confirming and updating the status of a reservation (Col. 24, lines 47-58). Sehr also discloses updating and verifying a transaction regarding the reservation (Col. 21, lines 52-54). Additionally, Sehr discloses updating the database with an electronic receipt of the transaction (Col. 24, lines 29-31; Col. 24, lines 47-58). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. in order to allow for updating and confirming of reservations, especially once the financial transaction was confirmed as disclosed by Sehr because a service provider would want to assure a user received their requested reservation and to also only provide the reservations for users who made authorized payments.

As per **Claim 56**, Schiff et al discloses all of the limitations of claim 50. Schiff et al. discloses the method wherein the reservation action request is a reservation modification request, and wherein processing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records according to the reservation action request includes:

- placing inventory item information corresponding to the new reservation transaction, reservation items, or reservation inventory records on hold (Para. 42, lines 7-11);
- placing inventory item information corresponding to the pre-existing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records on hold (Para. 42, lines 7-11);
- updating the pre-existing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records (Para. 82, lines 3-6);

Nonetheless, Schiff et al. fails to explicitly disclose:

- generating new reservation transaction, reservation items, or reservation inventory records corresponding to a new reservation portion of the modification request;
- confirming the completion of a financial transaction corresponding to the cancellation request; and;
- if the financial transaction is confirmed, updating an inventory item store with the inventory item information on hold.

However, Sehr discloses a reservation modification transaction being forwarded to a database in order to be confirmed and updated (Col. 15, lines 52-61; Col. 21, lines 52-54; Col. 21, lines 52-54). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. and provide for the capability to update reservation transactions and confirm payment for those transactions as disclosed by Sehr because

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updating the reservation verifies that the user will receive the services requested. Also, confirming payment from a user guarantees the merchant will receive payment for the services they provide the user.

As per **Claim 52, 57, and 61**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claim 50. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a method further comprising updating inventory item utilization information in accordance with the cancellation request. However, Sehr discloses a method where particular specifications of the reservation are updated in the system (Col. 24, lines 29-31; Col. 24, lines 47-58). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. in order to allow for specific reservation item updates as discloses by Sehr. Sehr provides motivation by revealing that the database will be informed in real-time about the status of all tickets the moment they are used for access or admission purposes.

As per **Claim 53 and 58**, Schiff et al. further discloses a method wherein placing the inventory item information on hold includes placing the inventory item information in a hold table (Col. 42, lines 7-11).

As per **Claim 55 and 60**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claims 50, 51, and 56. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a method further comprising rolling back the pre-existing reservation transaction, reservation items, and reservation inventory records if the financial transaction cannot be confirmed. However, Sehr discloses a method in which a reservation is not reserved unless a payment is authorized (Col. 4, lines 60-67; Col. 5, lines 1-6). It would have

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been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. to allow for rejection of a reservation if a payment is not authorized as disclosed by Sehr because a merchant would not want to provide a service without payment for those services.

12. Claims **54 and 59** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiff et al., Pub. No. US 2002/0082877 A1 in view of Sehr, U.S. Patent No. 6,926,203 B1 as applied to claims above, and further in view of Patel, U.S. Patent No. 5,953,706.

As per **Claims 54 and 59**, Schiff et al. discloses all of the limitations of claim 50. Schiff et al. fails to disclose a method wherein updating the inventory item store includes deleting the inventory item information in the hold table. However, Patel discloses deletion of a trip from the system once it has been reserved (Col. 7, lines 46-50). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the method of Schiff et al. in order to allow for deletion of a reserved trip as disclosed by Sehr because only one entity can be connected to a particular reservation.

Conclusion

Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully

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requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

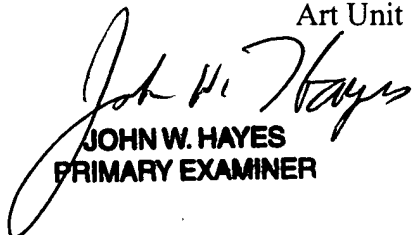
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fadey S. Jabr whose telephone number is (571) 272-1516. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Fadey S Jabr
Examiner
Art Unit 3639

fsj


JOHN W. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER